



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Southwest Region

July, 2009



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a text file or, if generated in a word processor, saved in .RTF format).

Images must be in JPG format, unretouched, uncropped, and at least 1200 pixels by 900 pixels.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

1. The article's author,
2. Photographer, and
3. Any person mentioned in the article.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

News From Around the Region

The second quarter of 2009 saw an addition to **Region Staff**, as Maj. Joe Fernandez (Texas Wing) joined the staff as Cadet Special Activities Officer. Judging from past experience, we know he'll do well, and wish him every success. Some important SWR activities included region-wide **Wing IG Workshop** at Kirtland AFB, N.M. that resulted in 100% participation. Now that everyone can put a face to each name, the region's wing IGs will find it easier to stay in touch with each other, leading to greater coordination and mutual support. High on the cadet-life agenda was the **SWR Cadet Competition** at Tinker AFB, Okla. The **Color Guard** event was highly contested, with Texas Wing winning overall, followed by Arizona Wing and New Mexico Wing. Texas Wing also won the **Drill Competition**. Congratulations to all.

SWR supported **Texas Wing** in their OPSEVAL in an advisory capacity, given that the holders of some key positions had transferred to SWR staff. Lt. Col. Melanie Capehart helped the Safety Team that earned a rating of Outstanding.

Notable was **Texas Wing's** performance during their OPSEVAL, winning an overall rating of Excellent, with two Outstandings: Information Technology and Safety.

Louisiana Wing had many cadet activities during the quarter, busy with presentation of the colors, training and community service activities. An interesting event was a visit to Fort Polk, where CAP cadets learned how the military train in their fight against insurgency. Also a highlight, Louisiana Wing held a check pilot school, an important refresher to assure continued ability to conduct CAP's missions. A triple-Mitchell ceremony involving three siblings (a brother and two sisters) was a joyous celebration for both family and squadron. Col. R. Frank Eldridge, SWR DCS, Cadet Programs, presented the Mitchell Certificates.

Arkansas Wing and **Mississippi Wing** straddled the region's border, as Arkansas cadets visited Columbus AFB for a rich experience on Air Force life, including some outstanding hands-on training on AT-6 "Texan" flight simulators. Arkansas Wing color guards were also active during Memorial Day, one of them working its way across the Texas border.

New Mexico Wing saw a cadet obtain N.M. State SAR field certification, a first for the wing. Very high on the news

was the wing's support of the New Mexico Spaceport ground-breaking ceremony. New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, Executive Director of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) Steve Landeene, Virgin Galactic President Will Whitehorn, and other dignitaries were present.

Arizona Wing cadets participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies held at the National Memorial Veterans Cemetery in North Phoenix. They presented the colors and assisted dignitaries in laying several wreaths. A USAF Cadet, former CAP member, took advantage of her summer break by returning to her old CAP unit, Composite Squadron 301. She spoke eloquently about an Air Force career to the squadron cadets, answering many questions.

Texas Wing, was very busy this quarter. Besides earning an overall excellent in their **OPSEVAL**, the wing conducted its Summer Encampment at Big Sandy, Texas, immediately followed by the Lone Star Emergency Services Academy. Both of these events were very well attended. Texas Wing also held its Annual Conference, at San Marcos, where numerous awards were presented – none more popular than that of the 2008 Texas Wing Squadron of the Year, Apollo Composite Squadron, Georgetown, Texas.

To all, our congratulations.

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Safety is Priority One

Please check the revised **CAPR 62-1** and **CAPP 217** that are now posted at http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/forms_publications_regulations/

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic and Intermediate online courses? Please visit: <http://www.capmembers.com/safety/orm.cfm>

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Monthly, members must read The Sentinel and follow its timely advice.
<http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>
- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

Which Articles Are Best?

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

Do I Submit Photos?

Whenever possible, include images with your article. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to make a comment about the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com

What's in a Day? A Meditation on the Fourth of July

By Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, SWR Director of Public Affairs

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas – For most Americans today, the Fourth of July is a gathering of celebration, of memories refreshed and renewed, of growing up in a free land, of revisiting that secret place in the heart where we are forever young. For most of us, at least superficially, the Fourth of July is a very happy day.

But that day of July 4, 1776 was none of these things. It was a time for announcing to the world that the revolt that had started relatively quietly with the Boston Tea Party (December 16, 1773), and come to its first serious engagement in the Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775), was not going to be settled by a meek return to "business as usual."

When the Second Continental Congress passed the Declaration of Independence, it had been almost fifteen months since the battles of Lexington and Concord, the later costly battle of Bunker Hill had been fought, General George Washington had been named commander of the Continental Army, the new land force was inadequate and largely untrained, and armaments were in extremely short supply. Indeed, the future looked decidedly bleak.

That first Fourth of July was a moment of uncertainty, given that America had no Navy, yet the British Navy was arguably the most powerful in the world; America had no Army, yet the British regulars had a long history of battle triumphs, enjoying training second to none. The one complete and full thing that America did have was the firm resolve to secure the land for its own future, establish fair order for its citizens, and live in a law-abiding and free country. The other advantage was that America had heart and roots firmly planted in the land, while the British forces were fighting a distant and uncomfortable war, very far from home.

In recorded history, many events have fallen on a July 4th, from the year 836 to our day, but none more world-changing, momentous, and memorable than the American Fourth of July, that day in 1776 where bravado turned to commitment, and the American people realized that they had a chance for greatness – and took it boldly. Painful, bloody, long and arduous as it was, in the end, they won. And its repercussions were felt across the Atlantic, in Europe itself and in European colonies in the West Indies and India. The French and Spanish crowns, as well as the Dutch Republic, had quietly supported the American revolt, hoping to diminish British power, yet hesitated to take an active part in the fray. Britain's military power was too strong, and feared the world over. By 1778, as Britain's star seemed to wane, France had entered into a Treaty of Alliance with the United States, that also included Spain, through the latter's alliance with France.

Ultimately, it came down to the British monarch's decision to give up the American Colonies. When King George III called it quits, he was unaware of the American Colonies' immense economic potential, since at the time Britain valued them mainly for their enormous stands of hardwood trees, which the British Crown had used to maintain and expand its powerful navy. Later, after all the treaties had been signed, the British Crown would occasionally refer to the "American Colonies" rather than "the United States of America," perhaps regretting their loss.

Thus, America earned the right to govern its own destiny, which is our heritage. And this right has been earned by volunteer Americans who did not hesitate to shed their blood as they fought to secure it. So I hope that on this Fourth of July, all of us remembered at what high cost our independence was earned, and how grateful we all need to be to those who died for their ideal, which is now ours.

Let us always be thankful for our Armed Forces, remembering their suffering and sacrifice.

(Photo: Wallpapers World)



Foreword

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas – Why is this article so late in getting published on the Southwest Region Newsletter? That's easy to answer. Since I had covered the event on assignment for Volunteer, I wasn't free to use the information until after Volunteer had published it. Now that the May-July 2009 issue of Volunteer is out, here is the rest of the story.

Newest Texas Wing Squadron Named after Former President George H. W. Bush

By Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, SWR Director of Public Affairs

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – Shortly after noon on 31 March 2009, former President George H. W. Bush presented its Civil Air Patrol charter to the George H. W. Bush Composite Squadron, SWR-TX-041, the newest in Texas Wing and the first CAP unit to be chartered with the name of an American president. (There is another CAP squadron named after a president. Originally chartered in 1951 as the Independence Composite Squadron, in Independence, Mo., it was renamed in 1973 after President Harry S. Truman.)

Conceived 15 months ago and started as a remote flight of the Lone Star Composite Squadron, SWR-TX-429, the new fledgling flight gathered strength and soon qualified to become a squadron. Asked to suggest a name for the new unit, the members settled on "George H. W. Bush." Early in 2009, hoping to make this a reality, the Lone Star Composite squadron wrote to the former President (Bush 41) asking him for his sponsorship, to which he agreed "with pleasure."



With an eye towards the future, the squadron commander, Lt. Col. Don Wheeler, asked Mr. Brian Blake, Public Affairs Director of the George H. W. Bush Library and Museum, to consider getting a new hobby, and thus Blake has just become the newest member of the squadron.

Lt. Col. Brooks Cima and Bush 41 hold the unit's charter as its commander, Lt. Col. Don Wheeler, looks on. (Photo: Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate)

When CAP National Headquarters agreed to the

squadron's name, the date was set for the president to meet the squadron members and present to them their official CAP charter. He arrived without fanfare, wearing an affable smile, as if he were strolling into his own living room, and immediately went to the assembled members to greet them and chat with them. Ever the polite and easy-going gentleman, he asked Wheeler, a 24-year USAF veteran, "How did this one come about?" pointing at one of the top ribbons on his

CAP uniform. Wheeler was speechless that the President would recognize the war-time Air Force award, and for a moment was at a loss for words. "Vietnam, Mr. President," he replied, and gave him the date.

Next to the lectern, on an easel, there was a large drawing of the colorful unit patch, designed by Mr. Jacob Haldeman, a graphic designer and heraldry expert. Based on the Seal of the President of the United States, it was modified to reflect the former president's life of service. Wheeler welcomed the President and guests and then



introduced Lt. Col. Brooks Cima, Texas Wing Director of Emergency Services, who spoke briefly on behalf of the Texas Wing Commander, Col. Joe R. Smith. Her congratulations and good wishes were very well received.

Bush 41 &
Woodgate
(Photos: Susan
Robertson, CAP
NHQ)

Representing Group IV were Capt. Bob Beeley, Group Deputy Commander, and Maj. David Ogden, Group Inspector General. Southwest Region was represented by Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate, Director of Public Affairs.



"I wish you every success," said President Bush to the squadron members, and encouraged them to serve the community and the nation. As he got ready to leave, Woodgate said, "Mr. President, I campaigned for you." As the squadron members laughed, his eyes bright with joy, the President turned to Woodgate and asked, "When was that?" "When you ran against Yarborough, Sir." "Ah, that was a long time ago," mused the elder statesman, with a broad and kind smile, as he shook Woodgate's hand for the second time in 45 years.

Afterwards, Wheeler confided, "I won't be happy until I have a permanent cadre of about 15 senior members who live in the area and are available to the squadron year-round. Right now, we're close to that. We have a good number of senior members drawn from Texas A&M, some from the Corps of Cadets, but they leave on breaks and vacation. To take care of the cadets who come to us from the local community, I need leaders who will be available all the time."

The squadron's cadets are uniformly young. C/A1C Corey Schultz, who received his Arnold Award on this day, said, "CAP and the squadron are great. I love it." C/TSgt Danielle Lamphear, who got her Rickenbacker award after the President's presentation, commented, "I was so excited to meet the President!" 2nd Lt. Alicia Garcia, who received her long-overdue General Billy Mitchell Award, blurted, "This is so wonderful!"

After the ceremony, C/Capt. Sean Stewart and C/Maj. John Rios renew their acquaintance. (Photo: Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate)

C/Maj. John Rios, a member of the Brownsville Composite Squadron and a student at Texas A&M University, lends his leadership to help train the cadets, since he drills with the new squadron when school is in session. "I like it here," he said.

There were many family members present, as well as a couple who is moving to College Station from San Antonio. They had brought along their two sons who are CAP cadets and will be transferring to the newly chartered squadron soon.

The mood was festive, the excitement of having met President Bush will last a very long time, and the future looks bright for the new George H. W. Bush Composite Squadron.

NOTE: Portions of this article were contributed by C/Capt. Sean Stewart, a member of the Pegasus Composite Squadron, Texas Wing.



SWR Wing Inspectors General Meet

KIRTLAND AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico – Over the weekend of 29-31 May, the Inspectors General from each wing in Southwest Region met at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico for a practicum (workshop). What made this gathering so unusual was that it had never been

done before.

Lt Col Sharon Lane became the SWR Inspector General in December, 2008. At once she asked SWR Commander Col. Joseph Jensen, CAP, “May I gather the IG’s for a practicum (workshop) sometime this spring”? He said, “Yes,” and the rest is history.

Civil Air Patrol Inspectors General are required to attend the IG College, which is held every other year. None of the attendees had gone to the IG College on the



same year, and the occasion had never arisen for them to meet or gather as a group. Considered frustrating by many of the IGs, they didn’t know one another personally, making it difficult to communicate. The practicum was beneficial to all, but the best result was that now all SWR IGs are comfortable with each other. In addition, many plans were made to share IG resources in the Region between the respective wings.

Covered in detail during the workshop was the new Wing Compliance Inspection Guide that now contains a different way of conducting inspections. Oklahoma and Texas completed their Compliance Inspections in 2008, Arizona and New Mexico in 2009 and Arkansas and Louisiana are due for their inspections in 2010. The new guide appears to be more comprehensive and detail-oriented, giving wing directors the opportunity to actually brag about their area – a real plus in many directorates’ eyes. Other items covered in the practicum included a review of CAPR 123-1, 2 and 3, which govern the IG Program, Subordinate Unit Inspections, the new IG Specialty Track (May 2009), EthicsPoint which is an online tool for tracking IG complaints, and how-to training for wing and squadron members on the use of the IG program.

The end result of the practicum for all attendees was a better understanding of the new Compliance Inspection, a refresher on some of the many facets of the IG program, and the sure knowledge that wing IGs are not on their own.

Photo: The Inspectors General of SW Region: (top row, L-R): Lt. Col. Lane Haley, Louisiana; Lt. Col. George Schank, Texas; Maj. Frank Scherer, Arizona; (front row): Lt. Col. Leonard Montgomery, Arkansas; Lt. Col. Don Ross, Oklahoma; Lt. Col. Sharon Lane, SWR IG, and Lt. Col. John Green, New Mexico.

Cadet Earns New Mexico Search and Rescue (NMSARC) Field Certification

By Capt. Ben Craver, CAP

KIRTLAND AFB, Albuquerque, N. M. – On May 3, 2009, C/CMSgt Joseph Clark passed the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council (NMSARC) Field Certification course, becoming a qualified New Mexico State SAR asset. He is the first New Mexico Wing cadet to be qualified in this category.



C/CMSgt Clark, 16, is a home-schooled member of Thunderbird Composite Squadron IV. He joined CAP at age 14, with the dream of getting his private pilot's license, and was immediately drawn to the Emergency Services mission. Because of the FAA's age requirements surrounding the pilot's license, he started working with the Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) teams.

Currently, Cadet Clark is working on his GTM1 CAP rating while also filling the role of Cadet Emergency Services Officer in his squadron. Becoming more involved in Emergency Services, both in and out of CAP, has required him to take several of the Incident Command System (ICS) courses offered by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). His most recent achievement, on May 3rd, 2009, has been passing the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council (NMSARC) Field Certification course, thus qualifying as a New Mexico State SAR asset,

the first New Mexico Wing cadet to achieve this rating.

Cadet Clark believes that his ground team work will make him a better pilot when he does get his FAA license. He credits his family for his accomplishments and is thankful for their support in encouraging him with CAP activities, especially Search and Rescue. He said, "My family has given up a lot of time for me to participate in all the events I've gone to, both to train and to teach. For that I am truly thankful. I would also like to thank the many senior members who have encouraged me, and given me the training I needed to accomplish these tasks. "

New Mexico Wing Color Guard in Spaceport Ground-breaking Ceremony

By 1st Lt. Lloyd Calderon, CAP

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On June 19, 2009, Cadets from Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron presented the colors at the New Mexico Spaceport ground-breaking ceremony, as New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, Executive Director of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) Steve Landeene, Virgin Galactic President Will Whitehorn, and other dignitaries looked on.

After the ceremony, the Color Guard Cadets posed with Spaceport helmets and



met with Governor Richardson and Mr. Will Whitehorn shortly before leaving.

C/A1C Tucker, a lucky cadet, got Mr. Whitehorn's autograph.

Cadets from the Las Cruces Composite Squadron also attended the ceremony and met the Governor as well as Mr. Whitehorn.

"Their attendance in support of this momentous event further strengthened the message from the Spaceport Director, Mr. Landeene, that youth are indeed the future of this space program in New Mexico," said 1st Lt. Calderon.

Photos: Top, Cadets pose with New Mexico Governor Richardson. Center: The Color Guard presents the colors. Bottom, Virgin Galactic President Whitehorn joins the N.M. Cadets.



Arizona's Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 in Memorial Day Ceremony

By Sgt John Home, CAP, SHCS 301 PAO

PHOENIX, Ariz. – On May 25th, Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 cadets were honored to participate in the Memorial Day ceremonies held at the National Memorial Veterans Cemetery in North Phoenix.

This event included the Governor of Arizona, Jan Brewer, as well as numerous other dignitaries. Senator John McCain of Arizona delivered the keynote speech, honoring the dedication and sacrifices of veterans from all branches of the armed services.

C/AB Andea Eskew and C/Amn Brandon Guerrero present a wreath.
Photo: Capt J. Brandon Masangcay, AZWG Asst PAO.

Ms. Sue Wudy, member of the National Memorial Cemeteries Support Committee, arranged for a number of SHCS 301 cadets to participate directly in the proceedings. C/TSgt Blake Benard and C/A1C Jared Floyd both served as escorts for the large number of representatives of various groups placing memorial wreaths as part of the ceremony. A special wreath that had been prepared by members of SHCS 301 was presented by C/Amn Brandon Guerrero and C/AB Andrea Eskew.

"It was a pretty awesome experience to be part of something so touching. Kind of exciting to have so many people watching me," said C/AB Andrea Eskew.

"Serving on Memorial Day was a great experience. Another cadet and I walked up with each wreath, presented it, and saluted it. Each wreath stood for the memory of a fallen soldier. I felt a lot of pride for my country and the soldiers who have fought and continue to fight for our freedom. I felt privileged to be able to be part of this experience and I hope to do it again next year," said C/A1C Jared Floyd.

The four cadets proved to be fine representatives of the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 at the Memorial Day Ceremonies. Given their youth, it took great courage for them to appear before such a large crowd. Their performance reflected the dignity of the occasion, and presented to the public the Civil Air Patrol in its best light.



U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Visits Home Squadron

By Capt. J. Brandon Masangcay, CAP, AZWG Assistant Public Affairs Officer

PHOENIX, Ariz – United States Air Force Academy Cadet Third Class Shauna L. Casey took

time out of her very short break from the Academy to visit with her former fellow cadets. She is a former Arizona Wing Cadet



and former Cadet Commander of the Sky Harbor (then Cadet) Composite Squadron 301.

Cadet Casey's visit to her home squadron included a



PowerPoint presentation detailing the various phases of her first year at the Academy. SHCS 301 cadets displayed interest and curiosity about each phase.

Cadet Casey was an inspiration and leader to her former teammates.

Photos: (top) USAFA C3C Shauna L. Casey briefs former fellow cadets; (right) USAFA C3C Casey and Capt. J. Brandon Masangcay, former Commander of SHCS 301; (bottom) SHCS 301 Cadets attentive to USAFA C3C



Casey's briefing. (Photos: Capt. J. Brandon Masangcay)

Southwest Region Color Guard Competition

By Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, SWR Director of Public Affairs

TINKER AFB, Okla – The contestants had been practicing their moves for over a year, maybe two – even three. It is arduous and painstaking work, all leading to unity of movement, total commitment to the team, a confident anticipation of every movement, so that each team member moves as a mirror image of all others.

It is an exercise in mutual support, all leading to a projection of utter elegance and dignity. The Color Guard is entrusted with safeguarding and bearing the principal emblem of our country, the temporal custodians of the rich heritage that lies behind it. And Old Glory will be flanked by the organizational colors, the emblazoned blue-gray flag of the Civil Air Patrol.

Of the six wings in Southwest Region, five have sent a team. Each wing team has won after being measured against all others in the wing. In that sense, every competing teams here is already a winner. All that remains is to pick the best among the best. Which one will win?

The judges are alert to every gesture, every nuance, every hesitation, every wrong angle or false step. Theirs it is a cruel duty, but they have no choice. The rules are known to all.

In the end, the team that makes the fewest mistakes will emerge victorious.

Arizona Wing

By 1st Lt. Debra Blais, CAP, TCS105 /CC

It is early morning on the 22nd day of May and five teams have come together to compete. As the Arizona Wing team stood silently waiting for the thumbs up, silence reigned. At the thumbs up signal, the Color Guard Commander got his team in motion.

As one, the team came to attention, and all eyes were on them for the rest of the competition that ended on the 23rd. The Arizona Wing Color Guard gave it their all, making their wing proud. They looked sharp, the command voice was tops, and they moved crisply, smoothly and proudly.

The team made instant friendship with Arkansas and New Mexico. Their integrity and humility shone forth. The team spirit was evident, for all to see. The Arizona Wing Color Guard took the Spirit Award.

C/MSgt Cesare, C/CMSgt Blais,
C/MSgt Drennan, and C/Amn Hoover.
(Photo: 1st Lt. Debra Blais.)



Texas Wing

By the 2009 Pegasus Composite Squadron Competition Color Guard

The Pegasus Composite Squadron Color Guard was ready for the test. Just a few months before, they had won the Texas Wing competition, garnering five first-place finishes and earning the chance to compete at the Southwest Region level. Now, they were ready to prove themselves once again.

At the general briefing, the team met Col. R. Frank Eldridge, the new Southwest Region Director of Cadet Programs and former Texas Wing Commander; with him was Maj. Joe Fernandez, the Southwest Region Cadet Activities Officer. After the briefing, the team took care of last minute details and rested up for the big day ahead.



Friday morning was the first day of competition and Texas was last in the rotation, but their turn finally came. After Inspection, they were off to lunch and back to wait for the indoor practica. Wait again, and the Outdoor Presentation. During all the waiting, the Texas team enjoyed meeting some of the other teams until it was time for the Standard Drill. This was the first event where Texas could see how their peers performed, and it was slightly unsettling. The Texas Wing team could tell that these teams had made it to Region for a reason; they knew their moves and would be tough competitors.

After meeting the judges, the cadets enjoyed a Pizza Party and got to meet and know the other cadets who had made it thus far. Hundreds of

slices of hot fresh pizza later, some cadets burned a little energy with an impromptu football game – they had a great time. When the activities died down, Texas hit the books, then went to bed. They wanted a good rest for the following day.

On Saturday, the final day of the competition, the first event would be the Written Test, then the Mile Run, and Texas was last to compete once again. Seeing all the runners finish in six minutes, and some even in the fives, the team promised themselves that they would run the fastest they ever had. Soon came their turn, and they gave it their all.

Next came the Panel Quiz, the final event for the day before the awards ceremony. They came up against the first team in the first round, which they won – four more to go. As they faced the next team, feeling confident after having won the first round, they were disappointed as they lost the



next 3 rounds by just five points each. Back in their rooms, the team got into their blues, anxious to hear the results of the competition.

After opening remarks and a buffet dinner, it was time for the final scores. Individual awards were presented first, C/SMSgt. Austin Lowery (Texas) won the highest written test score. C/SSgt Dakota Swearengin (Arkansas) won the male fleet foot award, and C/SSgt. Hannah Disraeli (Texas) won the female fleet foot award. Cadet Swearengin also won the outstanding cadet award. The first event award presented was for the written test – Texas placed first. The next award, for the Panel Quiz, went to the Arkansas team. When they heard the next first place go to Texas, the Texas Wing team realized that they might have a shot at winning the competition itself.

Then followed a streak of first place awards handed over to the Texas team, The Indoor Practical, Outdoor Practical, Standard Drill, and Mile Run awards. The Inspection award went to Arizona. With smiles from ear to ear, realizing they'd won, the Texas Wing team waited eagerly



to hear the announcement that Texas had won the Southwest Region Color Guard Competition. The overjoyed team practically jumped out of their chairs as they went up to the stage to receive their first place trophy. Smiles and congratulations ended the evening, and the excited team went to sleep in total happiness.

The Southwest Region competition was an amazing experience for the Texas Wing Color Guard, and it will be forever in their memories as one of those cadet activities that make CAP such a fun and exciting experience. This year's team included

C/SMSgt. Austin Lowery as Commander and US Flag bearer, C/CMSgt. Aaron Harold as 2nd Flag bearer, C/CMSgt. David Hamman as US Flag guard, C/SSgt. Hannah Disraeli as 2nd Flag guard, C/MSgt. Ali Pautz as 1st Alternate and C/SSgt. Russell Darr as 2nd Alternate. The senior member advisor to the Pegasus Color Guard was Maj. J. D. Draper. (Photos: Maj. J. D. Draper.)

Louisiana Wing Cadets Visit Third World Villages

By Maj. Michael James, CAP, Central Louisiana Composite Squadron PAO

FORT POLK, La – On March 7, squadron cadets visited several Fort Polk areas, including the Polk Army Airfield control tower, Polk Approach radar facility, and several “Third World” mock Iraqi villages.

Fort Polk is unique in the U.S. Army because it is the only Combat Training Center (CTC) that also has the mission of training and deploying combat and combat support units. From its start as an installation devoted to Louisiana Maneuvers in the 1940s, to seat of the 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions in the 1950s, to a basic training post during the Vietnam War, to the home of the 5th Mechanized Division in the 1980s, and its current dual mission as the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and home of the 2nd ACR and Warrior Brigade, Fort Polk has executed all Army missions.

Each fiscal year, JRTC conducts eight rotations and two Mission Readiness Exercises (MREs). A single rotation consists of 16 days. This time is usually



divided into days 1-4 spent in the Intermediate Staging Base Area (ISB), and days 5-16 spent on executing the exercise itself (“in the box”).

A typical scenario at JRTC includes a brigade-sized joint task force deploying to the fictional island of Aragon to support the

friendly nation of Cortina. During a normal rotation, in addition to the approximately 3,500 troops supporting the brigade, some 1,500 troops support echelons above division (EAD) units. These EAD units usually include a combat hospital as well as a corps support group. The permissive or forced entry of coalition forces into Cortina is intended to improve stability in the region by quelling an ongoing insurgency.

A non-MRE rotation generally has three operational phases; first, an insertion and counter-insurgency operation; second, a defense (in response to an attack by the Atlantican aggressor force); and third, an attack into the state-of-the-art military operations in Urban Terrain. The MOUT consists of a series of villages and sites simulating third world countries.



Louisiana Wing Holds Check Pilot School

By Maj. Michael James, CAP, Central Louisiana Composite Squadron PAO

ALEXANDRIA, La. – The Central Louisiana Composite Squadron recently hosted a National Check Pilot Standardization Course (NCPSC) for 15 Louisiana Wing check pilots.

Subjects discussed included judgment, evaluation, and cockpit resource management. The Louisiana Wing Standardization/Evaluation Officer, Lt. Col. Thomas "Doc" Barnard, said, "Your goals should not only be self-sacrifice for others but constantly striving for the betterment of fellow aviators. You are indirect stewards of expensive USAF hardware that has been entrusted to CAP and paid for by US taxpayers."

Lt. Col. Barnard also stressed, "The tasking and expectations of our customers is growing technologically more advanced and challenging every day. For our aircrews to safely and professionally complete their missions, they must have the best instruction possible, and must be able to meet the standards of the FAA and CAP."



Three Louisiana Wing Siblings Receive Simultaneous Mitchell Awards

By Lt. Col. David P. Berteau, CAP, Ascension Parish Composite Squadron PAO

GONZALES, La. – On June 6, 2009, Cadets 2nd Lt. Rophina Nwokorie, Agnes Nwokorie and Placid Chidozie Nwokorie Jr. received their Mitchell Awards at a ceremony conducted at the Louisiana Regional Airport. The cadets, natives of Nigeria, have been members of the Ascension Parish Composite Squadron since 2007, after moving to Gonzales about 9 years ago

Rophina and Agnes attend East Ascension High School, while Placid is a student at Gonzales Middle School. Rophina, 17, plans on becoming a flight surgeon. Agnes, 15, hopes to become a pediatrician, and Placid Jr., 13, dreams of becoming an Air Force pilot and cardiologist.

"I feel good about receiving the award and what I learned as an NCO in the cadet program. Now it's time to put that knowledge to use, teach other cadets and take on more responsibility," said Placid. "We have more challenges ahead: every leader has a struggle," said Agnes.



Col. R. Frank Eldridge, Southwest Region Deputy Chief of Staff, Cadet Programs, presented the awards, that carry automatic promotion to the grade of Cadet 2nd Lieutenant.



Afterwards, Raphine said, "I felt spectacular and honored that Col. Eldridge came to present our Mitchell awards."

Col. Eldridge, himself a former CAP cadet, Mitchell Award recipient, and a retired United States Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant, said, "It's a privilege to be here today to honor these three outstanding cadets, but I also want to recognize the parents. Without their help, encouragement, and support, the three of you might not be standing here today." – Placid Sr. is a truck driver and Christiana is a substitute teacher at Carver Primary School.

"If you are anything like I was at your age, you probably do not fully understand everything your parents

have done for you, and will not really appreciate it until later in life, when you get out on your own," said Eldridge to the three awardees.

The Ascension Parish Composite Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Phil Collins, said the simultaneous promotion of the tree siblings is highly unusual.

Arkansas Wing's 120th Composite Squadron Tours Columbus AFB, Mississippi

By C/1st Lt. D. Logan Spurlock, CAP

COLUMBUS AFB, Miss. – On April 29, cadets of the Arkansas Wing's 120th Composite Squadron, along with the Squadron Commander, Squadron XO, the DCC and a very accomplished commercial pilot, took off from the Jonesboro Municipal Airport in a fabulous Beechcraft King Air 200, headed for the Golden Triangle Airport in Columbus, Miss. Upon arrival, they were met by their tour guides for the day, 2nd Lt. Saffold and 2nd Lt. Adams, both recent graduates of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

After meeting their hosts, the tour group headed to Columbus AFB for their first stop: the engine/propulsion shop. A jet engine mechanic, Rodney Williams, proceeded to lead the tour through the propulsion shop.

At the base dog training facility, they met the military dogs kept and trained there. This was a very interesting experience for the members of the tour. First, T/Sgt Hogan and Sr. Airman Weeks gave a quick brief of what they do, the equipment they use for training, and how they train the dogs in narcotics searches, bomb sniffing, IED discovery, and search and rescue. The group proceeded outside to a fenced-off area behind the facility to see an agility demonstration on the obstacle course. Also quite informative were demonstrations for several different scenarios, including shots being fired while the dog is attacking, an offender attacking the dog's handler, the dog pursuing on command, and the dog ending pursuit if the offender surrenders.

Immediately after lunch at the Base Officer's Club, the tour proceeded to the BX to shop for various uniform items. The next stop was the special part of the trip. The Air Force had reserved for the CAP visitors the base's most advanced simulators, the T-6 Texan II, for 3 hours. When the group arrived at the simulator building, they were met by Mr. Billy Songer, a retired Air Force officer who flew F-16s for over 20 years. He talked to the group about the Air Force Flight Curriculum, then the group split up and headed for the simulators, where they had the time of their lives! While in the simulators, the cadets got to see and feel what it would be like to fly a T-6 Texan II, the Air Force's primary trainer. Each cadet was able to "fly" for half an hour, and most flew very well, especially considering it had been their first time in such a piece of equipment.

After the group said its farewells from the simulator crew, it headed to the physiology department to learn about the effects of operating at high altitude, the effects of G-forces on the body, and the effects of loss of balance in IFR conditions. The cadets were able to sit in the Barany chair that is spun around for several minutes in order to disorient pilots or cure air sickness. Then they went to the fitness center and learned the fitness curriculum,

After all this, and saying good-bye to the physiology folks, the group headed off-base to a local McAllister's and a good meal. Back at the airport, after thanking the two Air Force lieutenants who had so graciously spent their day with them, they boarded the King Air 200 and were whisked back to Jonesboro, skirting a thunderstorm along the way. It was a very memorable day, and the chance of a lifetime!



95th Leads Memorial Day Parade in Texarkana

By Maj. Dennis Kern

TEXARKANA, Ark. – The Memorial Day Ceremonies spanned two states, starting at the Veterans Memorial in front of the Miller County, Arkansas courthouse. The 95th Composite Squadron Color Guard provided the flag detail to raise and then place the colors at half-staff.

Following that ceremony, the Color Guard led the parade of CAP members, veterans and the general public from there past the U.S. Courthouse and Post Office to the Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Bowie County, Texas where the ceremonies continued.



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115th Participates in Northwest Arkansas Memorial Day Events

By Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven



FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – On May 25, members of the 115th Composite Squadron participated in two Memorial Day events in Fayetteville. A four-cadet color guard, eight other cadets, and four CAP senior members attended Fayetteville National Cemetery's annual ceremony before moving on to Drake Field and the Memorial Day Troop Train event hosted by the Arkansas Air Museum.

The color guard presented and retired the national and CAP colors at both locations. Color guard members were Cadet Staff Sgt. Andreas Kofler, Cadet Master Sgt. Adrian Flores, Cadet Airman 1st Class Aaron Barlow, and Cadet Airman Sarah Malmo.

At Fayetteville National Cemetery, keynote speaker Vic Walker, the senior vice commander of VFW Post 2952 and a former Marine and soldier, expressed his disappointment with current American society's use of Memorial Day as a recreational holiday. He challenged his audience to motivate others to remember the true purpose of the holiday: remembering fallen veterans who sacrificed their lives for the United States of America.

In a Drake Field hangar, Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan addressed the gathering of almost 300 veterans and their relatives who had just disembarked from the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad "Troop Train" for lunch and a special ceremony. Special remarks were also delivered by retired Air Force Lt. Col. Steve Gray, an aide to Rep. John Boozman (R-Ark.).

The "Troop Train", which is intended to recreate the cross-country travel experiences of servicemen in the two World Wars, left Springdale Monday morning and traveled to Chester in Crawford County, where passengers visited a military gravesite before heading back north and stopping at Drake Field along the way.

This is the second year that the 115th has provided a color guard for both events, as well as helping place American flags in front of the headstones at Fayetteville National Cemetery on the previous Saturday.

A Texas Wing Encampment Experience

By C/CMSgt Jesse Carr, CAP, Encampment Cadet Command Chief

BIG SANDY, Texas – I was once told that the mentor's greatest joy is to see the student surpass the mentor. Throughout my Civil Air Patrol career, I have heard very few statements as true as this one. On different levels, I have seen those whom I mentored do better than I, going to greater lengths, and reaching loftier goals. But that long week of 11-20 June marked a milestone for me. In applying for encampment, I had been selected to be the Cadet Command Chief – the top enlisted cadet and senior NCO in charge of encampment.

My pre-encampment duties had covered a wide range – selecting line staff NCOs, mentoring them in the pre-encampment stages, working out PT schedules, and assisting in any way I could. I wanted to make sure that encampment ran smoothly. All staff arrived on Thursday the eleventh for staff training. I held meetings with the NCOs, explaining to them how the NCO support channel works, and stressing again and again the concept that all line staff NCOs are part of the same team.

Throughout the encampment, I was called upon, asked about, and required to step up and take charge of situations beyond my regular duties. However, no matter how distant they were from my job description, I welcomed them with open arms, ready and willing to do whatever was necessary to ensure that the cadet basics would receive the maximum quality of training they possibly could, and that I set a good example for my staff and cadet basics.

Since the day I joined CAP, I have been determined to achieve the ability to lead, train others, and watch them grow in the program. Holding leadership positions has shown me just how wonderful that feeling is, when I have been able to guide, influence and train others. This past encampment, given my position, not only did I train cadet basics but I trained staff too... I experienced what it is like to lead and train the leaders. I saw how **my** NCOs grew, matured, and developed into leaders for their generation. I also watched cadet basics discipline themselves, adapting to the program, as they prepared to be groomed into the future CAP cadet leaders of Texas Wing.





I have never tired of experiencing that indescribable feeling of teaching, motivating, assisting, training, and leading younger cadets. Seeing them grow is wondrous and appealing. It is the joy of it all that makes me persevere, even when I might be worn out and stressed. I view the inconveniences as challenges, and these push me forward to climb on... for there will always be another mountain to climb, and it isn't moving it or going around it that builds character. It's climbing the mountain, overcoming the obstacle, how you manage to defeat it, and how many others you help climb it alongside you. These are the elements that build character.

In CAP, I have climbed many mountains and overcome many obstacles. Throughout my career, when I fell, my mentors, superiors, and friends have been there to pull me back up and show me the good path, and every time they've done this, I've taken note of it, and will continue to do so, as I go from strength to strength. Why? Because I want to be able to do the same for cadets who will find themselves in the same position I've been in, struggling for the motivation and knowledge to go on and not give up. I want to be there for them, to train them even better than I was trained, so that they will be more successful and productive than I have been.

But now I beg you, my generation of fellow cadets, take this to heart. Remember why we are here. Remember why we staff activities, and why we are in the Cadet Program. Remember the training you received, use it, and pass it on. Keep in mind that the goal isn't how full your resume will be, nor what you can brag about having done. The goal is training them, those who are in need, standing there ready and eager to be taught. They want, and in some cases beg, for assistance and training. It is our responsibility to ensure that they have the tools they'll need to succeed and run this program when we leave.

They are our future... (Photos: PA Cadet Staff, 2009 Texas Wing Summer Encampment)



Texas Wing OPSEVAL

1st Lt. Sue Kristoffersen, CAP, Group III AEO

WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT, Texas – Excellent! That's what the USAF overall ruling was. They told us that Outstanding had been within our reach, just a hair above our performance, so that's what we'll shoot for next time. The time and effort spent to choreograph this event was huge, but it paid off very well.

Lt. Col. Brooks Cima, Lt. Col. Owen Younger, Col. Joe Smith and many others worked for months trying to make sure this OPSEVAL came off without a hitch. Every detail had been previously covered or was immediately handled. During a disaster (or in this case an OPSEVAL) quick and accurate thinking and implementation on the part of those in the hot seat is essential. And our leadership at the top, these three superior individuals I

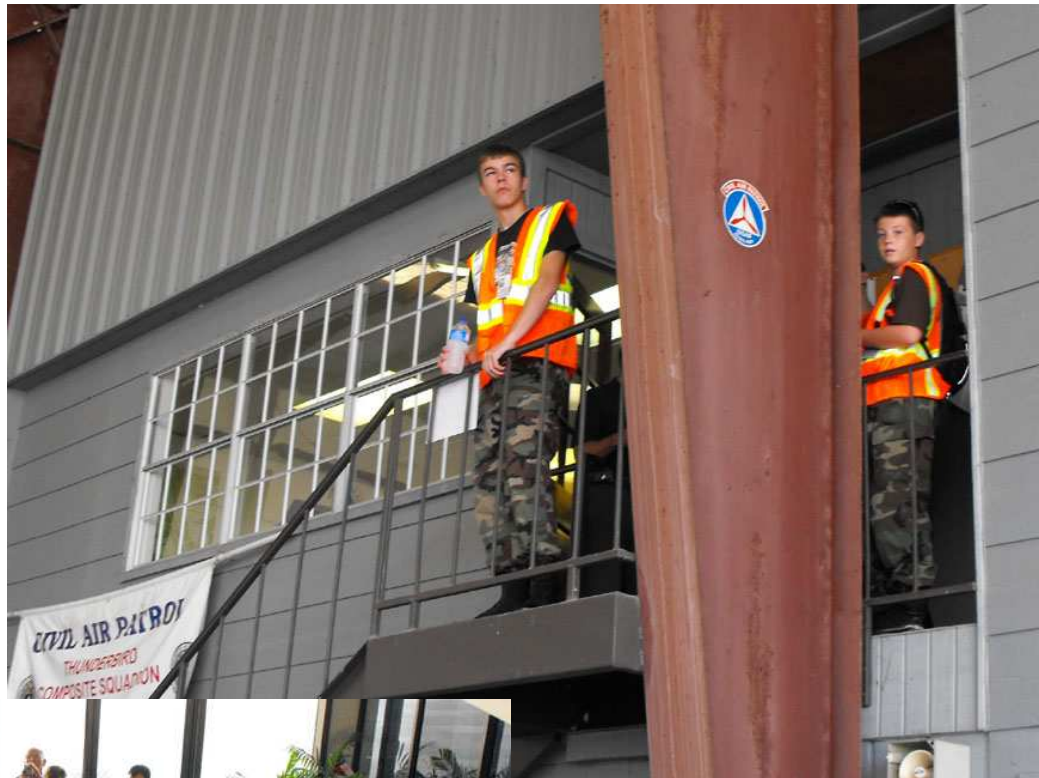


just named, gave us the guidance and momentum that kept us on an even keel.

The USAF wanted to see the plan, change the plan, and then change the plan again. They tried to create a climate of uncertainty to see what we would do. Their aim was to test the reaction of those in charge. Not even a dozen inspectors from the great USAF

were able to shake the ground our leaders were standing on. Our CAP leadership knew the job, realized it was an important test, and measured up with flying colors.

This event provided a showcase for our strong points, but it also revealed our weaker points. On the plus side, it showed that success is only as good as our training and participation on previous missions and exercises. Most striking – and ever so scary – is the realization that, every time, we depend on the same people to pull it off, however complex it might be. In a real disaster, we see these faces. In training, we see the same faces. During an OPSEVAL or SAREVAL,



the very same faces are everywhere. You might even run into these familiar faces at an OPSEVAL in a different state.

But what if disaster were to strike the Incident Command Post itself? Who would be ready to step up and carry out the mission? How would continuity of operations be achieved? Whose place would I need to take – and would I be ready to do so? Frankly, I have a lot of learning and work to do if I ever intend to fill Lt. Col. Theresa Alexander's shoes.

Lt. Col. Theresa Alexander, Maj. David Ogden, and Maj. Jack Lewis were all recognized by the USAF for their contribution to the mission. Having worked with them many times, I've always seen them do a great job. At the end of the day, I was glad that it was noticed and publicly appreciated. (Photos: Capt. Sandra Smith)

Apollo Composite Squadron Honored at Texas Wing Conference

Maj. Cheri Fischler, CAP, Apollo Composite Squadron Commander

GEORGETOWN, Texas – I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Apollo Composite Squadron, without whom Apollo would never have been awarded the Texas Wing Squadron of the Year Award. It was fabulous to see so many of you in attendance at the Conference.



(Photo: Mr. Steve Hudson)

Apollo has some of the most selfless, giving, caring, hardworking, creative individuals of any squadron in the Civil Air Patrol. If we earned the Squadron of the Year Award it was because of you – and I thank you.

NOTE: In 2004, having dwindled into an ineffectual, very small unit, the Apollo Composite Squadron was on the verge of deactivation. The then-Senior Member Cheri Fischler took over command and she, her mother, and her pre-teen son proceeded to build it into a vigorous and happy unit that today counts with 69 members. From this squadron have emerged several Group III and Texas Wing staff officers, including a SWR staff officer. Maj. Fischler is also the Group III Area Deputy Commander (South). **Editor**

Seeing Curtis Off

Maj. Cheri Fischler, CAP, Apollo Composite Squadron Commander

WEST FORT HOOD, Texas – On Saturday, 25 April 2009 we gathered at the Georgetown hangar to drive to Fort Hood. Our mission was to see off our very own 2nd Lt. William Curtis. As an active duty army soldier, a sergeant, he was being deployed to the Gulf. Curtis was glad to see us there, and the cadets gathered around him to show their support. They knew that duty called and Curtis had to go, but hated to see him go.

After being there for about an hour, we realized that Curtis had forgotten to eat before reaching Fort Hood, and we were actually in West Fort Hood, where there are no food vendors to be found. So immediately I headed off-post to the nearest hamburger place I could find. Running after a hamburger seems like such a little thing to do, but I was truly honored to have had the

opportunity to feed him before he left.

The soldiers were supposed to load on the buses at 8:10 p.m. and head to the airfield where they would begin their long journey half-way around the world. Just before 8 p.m., word came down the chain of command that the transport plane had a mechanical problem, but they were working on the logistics of



getting another plane to transport the unit. Curtis, standing with the rest of Bravo Company, came over and told me the news. "I have a favor to ask," he added, "If they can't find another plane, could I crash with one of you this evening? Of course, I'll need a ride too, because Lt. Welsh already took my car to storage for safe-keeping while I'm deployed."

My answer was, "Don't worry about a thing. We'll stay until you either get on the plane or in the squadron van." The chain of command then issued another statement saying that they would revisit the logistics at 9:30 p.m. At this point, I was running back off-post to the hamburger place to get dinner for the three cadets, 1st Lt. Kristoffersen and me, since we had decided to wait with Curtis for the final decision.



We called 2nd Lt. John Welsh and filled him in on the situation. His prompt reply was, "We'll get our spare bedroom ready for him, in case he needs a place to lay down his head for the night." Then the cadets called their parents to let them know we would be delayed, and why. At 10 p.m. it was announced that the soldiers wouldn't be leaving until Sunday, and those without a place to sleep in would be billeted in army barracks.



This entire process was very hard on not only the soldiers but their families. I heard one soldier say, "I'm not going to call my family back. I don't want to put my kids through another good-bye. I'll just stay in the barracks." Emotionally, his family had accepted that he was leaving, and if he were to return to them for another night, they would have to repeat the entire process on the following day. The delay took a heavy toll on the soldiers; it was visible, and heart-breaking.

The soldiers finally loaded on their buses for a quick trip to the arms room; as they needed to check in their

weapons for the evening. In the meantime, the cadets took Lt. Curtis's back-and fanny-packs to our van and we awaited his return. I posted myself just inside the door, and the remaining squadron members waited in the van. When Curtis walked back in, we both headed for the van.

I finally delivered him to 2nd Lt Welsh's home about 1:30 a.m. On the following day, Sunday, Lt. Welsh and his wife Betty took Curtis back to Fort Hood, and stayed with him until his plane took off at 5 p.m.

These may have been the longest 24 hours I've ever known. (Photos: 1st Lt. Sue Kristoffersen)



My Page

This issue of the Southwest Region's **The Fly-By** is my fourth one, and the one I like best so far. I hope you have found its contents and presentation stimulating. I have enjoyed selecting the material and presenting it to you. Also, since the greatest advantage to my job is being able to communicate with a fairly large audience (SWR has about 7,000 members), see what all of you do, and hear what you have to say, I feel I have a fairly good handle on what you want. But do you want the right thing? An editor, by the nature of the job, is also a teacher or sorts, since the material selected, and whether any given issue has a particular theme, in and of itself constitutes a message to you, the reader.

In common with us all, I was once a child, then a young man. Now I am no longer young, but the memory of that lived youth and maturing process remains vibrant in my mind. Why? Because, in the intervening years, I had great teachers, to whom I'll be forever grateful. Now I know that they taught me more than I thought they had, and perhaps more than they thought they were teaching me, too.

The sciences are fairly matter-of-fact and concrete, and most science teachers have the fairly easy job of teaching whatever the latest research findings have produced. The latest truth, if you wish. The humanities, on the other hand, are open to interpretation. It is in these that I found my greatest challenge – and pleasure. And these have been taught to me in many ways, but those that gave me the most pleasure and deepest understanding have shared a common trait: rather than presenting me with a fact or opinion, they placed me in a situation that required me to offer what I thought would be the best answer.

That's easy, you might think. After all, voicing an opinion is every American's right and privilege, and there are many who do so freely and willingly, again and again. But by letting that opinion fly over the world, we give cause and reason for the lesson, "Ah, yes. Perhaps a valid point. However, are you willing to live by it? What's more, are you willing to have everybody act and live by it?" At first, from a position of relative ignorance, I thought this to be an interesting way of looking at it, but I soon learned that it isn't a new thought at all. In fact, it is over 300 years old, given that Immanuel Kant died in 1804, and it is nothing more than a rephrasing of his *categorical imperative*, only removed from the abstract and brought down to a practical level.

Now, that is a very American thing too, wanting to make things practical. The other side of the coin is that it all boils down to having something to say, which can be intimidating. ("What if what I say makes me sound ridiculous?") William Shakespeare, in "Hamlet", Act 3, Scene 1, has the doomed prince say,

"Thus conscience does make cowards of us all;
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry,
And lose the name of action."

Even then, in the Elizabethan Era, people recognized the power (or weakness) of thought. And thought easily translates into writing. But, as we theorized, writing might be dangerous.

Writing a news article is quite easy. One observes what happens, takes good notes, maybe asks some pertinent questions, and finally sets it all down, neatly ordered. But, is this all there is to writing? How does this relate to Hamlet's famous monologue, partially quoted above?

It is no secret that I work with cadets who want to write. Some of them show promise as thinkers, but all share a thirst for communicating. In this issue, there is an article bylined by C/CMSgt Jesse Carr. I hope you didn't miss it. I am lucky to have him want me as his mentor.

Now it's your turn. I'd like to know what you think. Please contact me with your thoughts.

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